

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-12 and add new claims 13-26 as follows:

1. – 12. (Currently Cancelled)
13. (New) A method for forming an anastomosis between a host vessel and a bypass graft, the method comprising:
 - providing an anastomotic fitting comprising:
 - a base having a proximal end and a distal end,
 - a leading segment extending from the distal end of the base, the leading segment having a cross-section with a radius curvature approximating the radius of curvature of the host vessel and defining a surface area wherein the leading segment comprises open spaces throughout the surface area; and
 - a rear segment extending from the distal end of the base and being deflectable;
 - deflecting the rear segment;
 - advancing the leading segment through an opening in a wall of the host vessel whereby the opening is dilated;
 - advancing the rear segment into the host vessel wall opening; and
 - releasing the deflected rear segment whereby the rear segment is positioned within the host vessel.
14. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising compressing the leading segment into a reduced cross-section prior to advancing the leading segment through the opening in the host vessel wall.
15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the compressing is facilitated by the open spaces within the leading segment.
16. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the rear segment is deflected toward the base.
17. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the rear segment is deflected toward the leading segment.

18. (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising forming an angled connection between the graft vessel and the host vessel.

19. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the advancing the leading segment comprises using the leading segment to dilate the opening wherein the leading segment is smoothly transitioned into the opening.

20. (New) A system for forming an angled anastomotic connection between a host vessel and a bypass graft, the system comprising an angled anastomotic fitting comprising:

a base having a proximal end and a distal end,

a leading segment extending from the distal end of the base, the leading segment having a cross-section with a radius curvature approximating the radius of curvature of the host vessel and defining a surface area wherein the leading segment comprises open spaces throughout the surface area; and

a rear segment extending from the distal end of the base and being deflectable;

wherein the base is positioned at an angle relative to at least the leading segment.

21. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the base is positioned at angle relative to the rear segment.

22. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the angle ranges from about 30 degrees to about 150 degrees.

23. (New) The system of claim 20 further comprising means for positioning the fitting within an opening in a wall of the host vessel, the positioning means comprising means for deflecting the rear segment.

24. (New) The system of claim 20 further comprising:

a support device; and

means for securing the support device to the base of the fitting.

25. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the rear segment has length less than the diameter of the host vessel.

26. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the leading segment is configured to provide a smooth transition from the leading segment to the base.